

Anthony Greenwater
Tribal and International Affairs Office (R-19J) USEPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60604
Greenwater.anthony@epa.gov

January 19, 2018

Dear Mr. Greenwater,

We are submitting a nomination for Douglas Cox, Environmental Program Coordinator for the Menomonee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, as a candidate for the 2017 Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for Environmental Stewardship.

Doug Cox has worked with dedication and passion in the Menomonee Tribe's Natural Resources Department for 25 years in multiple roles. He is an exemplary local, regional, and national leader for environmental protection for his tribal lands and natural resources and for the eastern region of Wisconsin and western Michigan. He has worked for nearly three decades in multiple capacities throughout Wisconsin and with regional and national associations.

Doug is often outwardly calm and quiet spoken, but when he is defending the land and waters he loves, he is a ferocious advocate for the Menominee and the environment. He is proud to be a tribal legislator, tribal member, husband, father, and grandfather.

As his peers, we think Doug has made significant contributions in environmental management, stewardship, leadership, and advocacy in Indian country in this award selection criteria category:

Positive and noteworthy leadership and contributions to a wide variety of tribal environmental protection programs over an extended period of time (we've added links in the following descriptions as supporting documentation):

- Major contributor to the development of "The Menominee Forest-Based Sustainable Development Tradition," an historical account written in 1997, as part of the Menomonee Tribal Enterprises plan called [Maeqtekuahkihkiw Kew Kanahwihtahquaq](#) ("The Forest Keepers"); Doug orchestrated inter- and intra-governmental working relationships and overall project management for the project.
- Served as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Menomonee Tribal Enterprise for many years, which is part of the forestry division that develops regulations regarding forestry management activities.
- As one of the original founders of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council ([WTCAC](#)), which he helped establish in 1999, Doug helped to develop bylaws and find funding to support a group of 11 Wisconsin tribes working towards shared environmental goals; he served as treasurer from 2001 to 2006. He's remained active in the group for almost 20 years identifying and helping to solve natural

resource issues. His extensive contributions helped Wisconsin tribes become the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Tribal Conservation Advisory Council.

- Provided active and ongoing leadership through Wisconsin Tribal Environmental Managers (WisTEM), the group of natural resources department directors and environmental specialists, for many years
- Co-author of the book "Culture and Resource Conflict: *Why Meanings Matter*" published in 2006 by the Russell Sage Foundation; the book is an investigation of the discord between non-tribal populations and Menominee Native Americans over hunting and fishing practices, and it contributes to an understanding of how and why cultures often collide.
- Co-author of several articles about data derived from a long-term research project among Menominee Native American and Euro-American hunters in north-central Wisconsin, including an article in "Ethos" published by the American Anthropological Association (2007).
- As the former Forest Ecologist with the Menominee Tribe, Doug partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and conduct a Karner Blue Butterfly Workshop in 2007. The workshop grew out of the tribe's interest to incorporate barrens management into their forest plan and to proactively manage for the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly on those lands.
- Founding member in 2014 of the Steering Committee for the Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP), a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) encompassing Langlade, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano Counties as well as the Menominee Nation and Stockbridge-Munsee tribes in Northeastern Wisconsin and is devoted to the management of invasive species through cooperative education, control and native habitat restoration efforts.
- Member and leader of the Tribal Invasive Species Coordination project since 2014, a collaborative partnership model with Menominee and regional/national invasive species groups; helped develop an invasive species management plan with another staff person, and created volunteer opportunities, internships, and employment for tribal members.
- Speaker at numerous public forums including environmental nonprofit Save the Wild U.P. (SWUP) hosted a forum on Aquila Resources' proposed Back Forty open pit sulfide mine called "Don't Undermine the Menominee" in 2016.
- Served as chairman for over 20 years of the Menominee Tribe's Conservation Commission, which is responsible for developing and recommending tribal regulations about hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Member of the Tribe's strategic planning team and co-developer of the natural resources portion of the plan as well as writing the integrated natural resources management plan.
- Member representing Wisconsin tribes in the USEPA Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee: Tribal Caucus since 2016
- One of two Primary Representatives for USEPA Region 5 to the National Tribal Caucus of the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) since 2017

- Tribal representative for USEPA Region 5 in the Tribal Science Council
- Represented the Menominee Tribal Legislature and Environmental Services as a member of the most recent Menominee County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (for 2018-2027)
- Well-informed and ardent leader in the Menominee Tribe's opposition to the Back Forty Mine, which has received regional and national attention in part due to Doug's diligence and outreach efforts.
- Served as elected member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Legislature since 2016.

The staff at the Menominee Tribe's Environmental Services program is dedicated to serving the Menominee Nation by defending the environmental integrity of the land, air, and water base which makes up the cultural and earth resources of the Menominee People. The protection of these resources will help to assure they are sustained for future generations and assures that the Menominee People's health needs related to the environment are well maintained (program mission statement). Doug's varied and significant ongoing contributions to this mission statement are undeniably effective today and will have long-term future benefits for his tribe and Wisconsin.

Please accept our nomination of Doug Cox for the 2017 award, and feel free to let us know if you have questions about our nomination by contacting Lissa Radke, Environmental Specialist for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, at environmental@badriver-nsn.gov or 715-682-7123. We verify the above as accurate to the best of our ability.

Miigwech (thank you),

Lissa Radke
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Jeff Mears
Oneida Nation